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*Case of yellow fever at Matanzas.*

MATANZAS, CUBA, *March 30, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report a case of yellow fever, in a civilian. The character of the case was determined to-day. It is under treatment at the military hospital.

Respectfully, yours,

G. M. GUITERAS,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

DENMARK.

*Danish West Indies quarantine against Ponce.*

[No. 87.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Copenhagen, March 15, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that owing to an epidemic of small-pox at Ponce, Porto Rico, the Government of the Danish West Indies has declared a quarantine of fifteen days against ships arriving from that port.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LAURITZ S. SWENSON.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

INDIA.

*Plague in Calcutta and measures to prevent its spread.*

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Calcutta, March 1, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to state that the inclosed appeared in the Englishman of this city, of the 25th ultimo, announcing the reappearance of the plague here, though in sporadic form only, but a sufficient number of cases to cause the Government to adopt measures for its restriction and suppression. I immediately cabled you as follows, viz, "Plague, sporadic."

As the cold weather is nearly ended, it is hoped that the measures adopted may prevent the disease becoming epidemic.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

R. F. PATTERSON,  
*United States Consul-General.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

*Plague in Calcutta—Official declaration.*

[Inclosure.]

A Calcutta Gazette extraordinary, issued last night, contains the following resolution:

By a notification (No. 6026) issued by the municipal medical department of this Government on October 10, 1898, it was announced that Calcutta was free from plague, no fresh case of or death from the disease having occurred since September 28. In a resolution published on the same date, the lieutenant-governor drew attention to the danger of a possible reappearance of plague, and expressed his desire that the ward, family, and caste hospitals which had been opened under private management should be maintained in working order, and that the precautions which had been taken to stave off an outbreak, and to deal with it if it should arise, should not be relaxed.

2. Since these announcements were made, dropping cases of a suspicious character

have been reported from time to time, some of which were of such a character as to leave little room for doubt as to their having been genuine plague. Until recently, these have been so few in number, so isolated, and for the most part so far open to doubt that it has not been found necessary to reimpose the restrictions which were withdrawn in October; and the lieutenant-governor, while fully cognizant of their significance, has thought it sufficient to report their occurrence from time to time to the Government of India, and to the various foreign governments, as required by the terms of the Venice convention, still entertaining the hope that with the passing of the cold season they would disappear.

3. This hope has, unhappily, not been realized. During January, 15 cases, with 13 deaths, were reported. During the present month, up to the 23d instant, there have been 27 cases, with 24 deaths, and the numbers reported during the latter part of the month are greater than in the beginning. In some wards of the town, also, and notably in Ward No. V, the total registered mortality from all causes has lately risen in a marked manner above the normal rate, and though there is no direct evidence that this is due to plague, the absence of any other known cause is at least a ground for suspicion. Reports have also reached Government which point to the possibility that attempts may be made to conceal the occurrence of cases, the sufferers being turned out of their houses by the landlords or the other inmates, through fear of infection or for other reasons, and forced to seek shelter elsewhere. Intimation has been received that the authorities in Egypt have decided to apply the plague rules against arrivals from Calcutta, and orders have been issued by the Government of India that the regulations of the Venice convention shall be enforced against Calcutta at the ports of Aden, Madras, and Rangoon.

4. In these circumstances the lieutenant-governor is compelled, with much regret, to reimpose the restrictions which were withdrawn in October, 1898. A resolution is under issue prescribing that the inspection of the passengers and crews of vessels leaving Calcutta for ports out of India shall again be conducted by day on shore at the time of embarkation, and the fact that this has been done will be endorsed on the bill of health to be granted before any such vessel leaves the port. Correspondence has recently passed regarding a proposal that the clothing of the crews and deck passengers of vessels proceeding on long voyages shall be disinfected before departure. The lieutenant-governor was at first in hopes that this measure might not be necessary, but in view of the altered condition of things this is no longer possible. In communication with the liners' conference and the president of the chamber of commerce, he has drawn up a scheme to give effect to the proposal, and arrangements will be made to bring it into force as soon as the apparatus can be procured. Orders are also under issue to provide for the inspection of passengers by train in the same manner as was done prior to October, 1898.

5. The lieutenant-governor has also had under consideration the question of revising the regulations for dealing with plague in Calcutta itself. Those now in force are contained in plague regulation No. 9, dated November 10, 1897, and were drawn up with reference to the experience which had been gained in Bombay and elsewhere, before any case of plague had occurred in Calcutta. In substance, the lieutenant-governor sees no reason to doubt their propriety and efficacy. In some points of detail, however, later experience has suggested improvements. In order that effective measures may be taken to prevent the spread of infection, it is of the first importance that every case which occurs shall be promptly brought to the notice of the authorities. Foreign governments would have just cause for complaint if the measures adopted locally were such as to lead to the concealment of cases; nor can the local government hope to cope successfully with an outbreak if the regulations in force are so repugnant to the sense of the people affected as to drive them to withhold information and hide away their sick instead of bringing them forward for treatment. Experience has shown that success has attended the system prescribed in rule 46 of plague regulation No. 9, by which persons found to be suffering from plague are, at their discretion, permitted to resort to ward, caste, or family hospitals, maintained by private contributions, instead of being removed for segregation to the special plague hospitals at Maniktala, Marcus square, and the Budge-Budge road. Still more satisfactory has been the arrangement frequently resorted to by which persons are permitted to set apart portions of their dwelling or garden houses, under due restrictions, for use as private hospitals for themselves and their families. In the case of the poorer classes, however, the arrangements have not worked so well. It is among the poor that the majority of the patients has usually been found; and any system is defective which leads these ignorant and superstitious people to resort to any shift rather than expose themselves to the chances of compulsory removal to a plague hospital or segregation camp.

6. The lieutenant-governor is, therefore, of opinion that measures must be taken to apply in the case of the poorer classes also the system which has so far worked well in respect of classes higher in the social scale. In future no person shall be removed to a

public hospital, under rule 46 of plague regulation No. 9, without his consent, provided that suitable arrangements are made for the treatment of the case at home. If there is any ward, caste, or family hospital for admission to which he is eligible, and to which he is willing to go, he may be moved thither. If there is no such hospital available, an endeavor should be made to explain to the patient or his friends the advantages which he would obtain in a public hospital in respect of treatment, attendance, and surroundings. But if, notwithstanding this, he still prefers to be treated at his own home, arrangements shall be made to adapt the latter for the purposes of a private isolation hospital. The other inmates, except such as are in attendance on the patient, should be induced to remove elsewhere. Medicines and medical attendance should be provided free of cost, and on the recovery of the patient (or after his death, if the case should terminate fatally) the premises should be either thoroughly disinfected, or, if necessary, demolished, compensation being paid to the owner. All clothing or bedding which is likely to have become contaminated should also be at once disinfected in the Equifex disinfectant or destroyed on payment of compensation. If any structural or internal alterations in the house or hut appear necessary in order to render it suitable for its purpose, these shall be carried out by the chairman and the health officer at the public expense.

7. By these measures the lieutenant-governor hopes to secure the active cooperation of the public in the reporting of cases promptly as they occur. There is at present no serious ground for alarm. Such cases as have occurred are undoubtedly sporadic. The season of greatest danger is nearly passed. Much has been done during the past two years to improve the conservancy of the town and to introduce a higher standard of cleanliness. The municipal establishments have been strengthened, and a strong staff of competent medical and sanitary officers is at hand. The course which the disease has so far taken in Calcutta is such as to warrant the hope that the town may yet escape a serious outbreak; and the lieutenant-governor is confident that all classes of the community will unite with the authorities in their efforts to ward it off.

#### TURKEY.

##### *Sanitary report from Constantinople.*

[Report No. 213.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 20, 1899.

*Plague in Djiddah.*—In my last report I stated that 12 bubonic plague deaths have occurred in Djiddah. Up to the 16th instant 7 more deaths have been registered in said town; total, 19 deaths. It has been decided to submit to ten days' quarantine not only the arrivals coming from the city of Djiddah, but also those coming from any point of the seashore from Mamuret-ul-hamidieh (Lith) to Yambo.

*Outbreak of bubonic plague at the lazaretto of Camaran.*—The sanitary inspector of Camaran, Dr. Crondropulo, wired on the 16th instant:

Steamer *Mirzapore* arrived the 12th instant from Chittagong carrying 759 pilgrims. During the voyage 6 deaths occurred, of which 2 were from bronchitis. Many other cases of bronchitis with fever, prostration, and diarrhea recovered. A patient has landed with high fever and prostration. All separated at once. In spite of the absence of pathognomonic symptom, microscopic examination, phlegm, gave positive result. All steps taken. Disinfection lasted three days. Immense number of rats in the island renders the sojourn of pilgrims dangerous. I am waiting your orders.—CRONDROPULO.

*Health of the city of Mecca.*—According to official news, public health in the city of Mecca is perfect. The sanitary physician does not give any news about the bubonic plague case mentioned in my previous report.

*Sanitary news from Egypt and the island of St. Maurice.*—It has been wired from Alexandria that the steamship *Himalaya* has passed through the Suez canal under quarantine, and at Port Said a bubonic plague case was discovered. Said steamship was bound to Marseilles and London.

It was communicated at the last sitting of the International Sanitary